

DX LISTENING DIGEST 1-142, October 7, 2001  
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<http://www.angelfire.com/ok/worldofradio/Dxldmid.html>

[NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn]

\*\* AFGHANISTAN. 7083v, 1530, Voice of Shariah, Kabul heard with English newscast only Sept. 26. I have been listening every day since then but have not heard anything in English. They urged their brothers to war against the unbelievers, etc. Usually they have a native language or Arabic. The station can be heard every day but disturbed by radio amateurs. The transmitter is constantly drifting downwards in frequency with a speed of circa 2-3 Hertz per minute. Probably a short news bulletin in EE October 3 at 1540. Weak modulation and seldom a strong signal (Stig Adolfsson, Sweden, SW Bulletin Oct 7, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DXLD)

\*\* AFGHANISTAN. Sunday Oct. 7 1711 UT: Military action against Afghanistan has started. CNN's reporter in Afghanistan says that Radio Shariya has gone off the air. It's not yet clear if any installations have been destroyed. 1717 UT: A Northern Alliance spokesman has just confirmed that several targets in Kabul were hit in the past hour, including "Kabul Radio". (Andy Sennitt, Radio Netherlands, swprograms via DXLD)

In response to a question in a press briefing at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld confirmed at 1908 UT Oct 7 that Commando Solo broadcasts to Afghanistan had begun (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

[Extraordinarily, BBCM issued a number of items on a Sunday. Later, combined into this overall report -gh]

\*\* AFGHANISTAN [and non]. How the region's media reported the attacks

As the aerial attacks on Afghanistan began at about 1630 gmt on Sunday evening, 7 October 2001, live footage of the scene in the skies above Kabul shot by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera TV's crew in the Afghan capital was transmitted worldwide via CNN.

Reports that the ruling Taleban movement had confirmed that the capital was being bombed came from the Islamabad-based Afghan Islamic Press agency.

BBC Monitoring lost reception of the Taleban-controlled Radio Voice of Shari'ah at 1635 gmt on 7 October.

At 1706 gmt a CNN correspondent speaking from Kabul said Voice of Shari'ah had gone off the air; he pointed out that this could be because the station's transmitters had been bombed, or that it had decided to suspend transmission for security reasons.

A report in English at 1848 gmt on 7 October by the Iranian news agency IRNA cited unidentified sources in Tehran as saying that "air bases, Radio [Voice of] Shari'ah and electricity power plants in Kandahar, Kabul, Samangan and Mazar-e Sharif were targeted by long-range US and British missiles".

A Northern Alliance spokesman cited by the French news agency AFP said targets in Kabul included the presidential palace, the national radio-television building, the airport and anti-aircraft installations east of the city.

According to a US defence official cited by CNN, the initial targets were "air defences, terrorist camps, military targets connected to the Taleban". The official was not reported by CNN to make any reference to broadcasting studios or transmitters.

The initial strikes were by cruise missiles launched from US and British ships in the Arabian Sea.

In one of the last reports broadcast on Voice of Shari'ah before reception was lost, the station broadcast a statement by the Afghan Ministry in which it condemned recent remarks by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw "in connection with the formation of a government favoured by global arrogance in Afghanistan".

The statement, read out on Voice of Shari'ah at 1530 gmt on 7 October, said Blair and Straw's comments were "against international principles and an open interference" in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Referring to Britain's promise to give more than 37m dollars to the Afghan people, the statement said "if they spend billions of dollars or pounds they will not be able to bring about a change in the policy or in the process of the Islamic revolution or in the will of the

Muslims".

In this regard, it said that Afghanistan was receiving help from other countries. It said that the "arrogant powers" were surely aware that the Afghans were "not alone". It said that Muslims throughout the world knew the "pure heart of Islam is beating in Afghanistan".

The Afghan Taleban-controlled Radio Voice of Shari'ah news bulletin in Russian at 1650 gmt on 7 October was not heard by BBC Monitoring on its usual frequencies of 1107, 7085 and 7087 kHz.

Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Balkh Province, which broadcast from Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan, was broadcasting normally on 7 October until it went off the air as scheduled at 1600 gmt. But the station was not heard at 1645 gmt when its usual frequency (1584 kHz) was checked.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency on 7 October quoted a spokesman for the anti-Taleban Northern Alliance as saying that more than 600 journalists were already in areas under the Alliance's control, and others were still arriving.

How the region's broadcasters reacted

Central Asia

Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik and Turkmen media monitored by BBC Monitoring were behaving normally and made no reference to events in Kabul on the evening of 7 October.

Kazakh state television channels behaved normally. Only the Kazakh Commercial TV departed from the scheduled programme and at 1845 gmt began to show CNN and Euronews footage, partly live, of the Kabul events and briefings in the USA on the events.

Uzbekistan

As at 1900 gmt, Uzbek TV first and second channels were broadcasting as scheduled, showing films, and went off the air as scheduled. Uzbek radio youth programme carried a discussion on flat purchasing at 1900 gmt, followed by music. The late news bulletin on Uzbek first TV channel was a repeat of the earlier round-up, with no mention of Kabul events. Uzbek youth radio went off the air at 2000 gmt.

Kazakhstan

Kazakh TV (and radio) and Khabar TV closed down as usual before 1800 gmt (midnight Kazakh time) with no mention of Kabul events. Kazakh

Commercial TV showed films until 1845 gmt, when it started showing live clips from CNN and Euronews interspersed with earlier foreign footage of the bombing of Kabul airport and Usamah Bin-Ladin. This was still the pattern at 2000 gmt.

#### Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz TV and radio closed down as scheduled on 7 October with no news announcements.

#### Turkmenistan

Turkmen TV continued showing a repeat of President Niyazov's address at a ceremonial meal on 6 October on the main "Asyr altyn" channel, followed by a repeat of the earlier news bulletin. The second channels was showing cultural features, closed down as scheduled.

#### Tajikistan

Tajik radio was broadcasting as scheduled with no news announcements.

#### Pakistan

Pakistan TV1 at 1700 gmt started a direct relay of CNN's live coverage of the latest developments, including President Bush's address to the nation and British Prime Minister's Tony Blair's address to the nation. It disrupted CNN live coverage to carry "special news bulletins" in Urdu and English to report on the military operations against Afghanistan and a Pakistan Foreign Office statement on the situation.

Pakistan Radio observed normal programming with "special news bulletins" every half an hour in Urdu and English alternately to report on the situation. The bulletins also carried the Taleban's statement on the US attacks and the report quoting the Taleban ambassador to Pakistan as saying that Taleban leader Mullah Omar and Usamah Bin-Ladin have survived the initial US-led attacks.

Internet versions of three Pakistani English-language dailies - Dawn, The News and The Nation - have been updating reports relating to the latest developments.

#### Iran

Iran's state-run Khabar [News] TV network on 7 October began special coverage, dubbed "Blind Attack," on the attacks against Afghanistan. Just minutes after the start of the strikes against Afghanistan, the news channel interrupted its routine coverage of daily events, which

usually consists of news bulletins every 30 minutes, to provide updates on the attacks every few minutes.

## Iraq

Republic of Iraq TV Television at 1700 gmt on 7 October linked up with Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV for live coverage of the air strikes against Afghanistan. The linkup lasted for about two minutes, before it was stopped immediately after President Bush appeared on the screen to address to the American nation.

## Al-Jazeera TV

Al-Jazeera, whose live footage of the first minutes of the attacks on Kabul was shown on TV stations worldwide via CNN, again made the headlines a few hours later on 7 October when it broadcast a prerecorded video message by Usamah Bin-Ladin. His statement did not claim responsibility for the 11 September attacks. But he expressed his support for those who carried it out.

Al-Jazeera TV at 1814 gmt on 7 October carried a "video-recorded statement", which the channel's correspondent in Kabul Taysir Alluni said "was sent to us by one of the individuals, who appears to be from the Taleban movement leadership." The Al-Jazeera correspondent then said he would transmit the statement live via Al-Jazeera.

The recorded video began with a statement made by Sulayman Abu-Ghayth, identified by a caption on the screen as "official spokesman of the Al-Qa'idah organization." The video recording showed Abu-Ghayth and Usamah Bin-Ladin and Ayman al-Zawahiri (head of the Al-Jihad group) sitting next to him.

Bin-Ladin was shown dressed in fatigues and an Afghan headdress, kneeling in a stone cave and flanked by two aides. It was not clear when the video was made, but it was shot in daytime and referred to the 11 September attacks but not to the 7 October strikes against Afghanistan by the United States and Britain.

In the message, Bin-Ladin said his Al-Qa'idah group was ready for "confrontation with the United States". The USA "will never again know security as long as Palestine does not know security," he added.

Usamah Bin-Ladin began to speak at 1825 gmt. He said: "God Almighty hit the United States at its most vulnerable spot. He destroyed its greatest buildings. Praise be to God."

He added: "Here is the United States. It was filled with terror from its north to its south and from its east to its west. Praise be to

God."

Bin-Ladin said: "What the United States is tasting today is a very small thing compared with what we have been tasting for tens of years. Our nation has been tasting this humiliation and contempt for more than 80 years. Its sons are being killed, its blood is being shed, its holy places are being attacked, and it is not being ruled according to what God has decreed."

He added: "As for the United States, I tell it and its people these few words: I swear by Almighty God who raised the heavens without pillars that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before we can see reality in Palestine and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him."

Bin-Ladin concluded his speech at 1833 gmt. After Bin-Ladin concluded his speech, the Al-Jazeera presenter says: "So, these were clips from a tape that has just been transmitted to us from our office in Kabul. This tape was recorded during daytime. It seems that arrangements were made to show the tape after the strike."

Al-Jazeera said the statement was videotaped after 11 September but did not give a specific date.

Bin-Ladin has often used Al-Jazeera as a platform to communicate his views to the world, prompting the US government to express concerns to the Qatari Emir over the channel's exclusive access to Bin-Ladin and his Al-Qa'idah organization, as well as to the Taleban.

At 1920 gmt on 7 October Al-Jazeera carried a 10-minute live interview with Mola Nour Ali, captioned as the "deputy defence minister of the Taleban," via satellite from Kabul. Asked about his assessment of the situation after the start of the military strikes, the Taleban official said that the "situation is good and there is no cause for concern. All the mojahedin are in their trenches defending themselves." He adds: "We have downed a plane in the province of Farah. We are ready to defend ourselves." Asked about the targets that were hit, especially in Kabul, the deputy defence minister said that "the targets are not important and there was no great damage."

Referring to the USA and the participation of countries like the UK in the strikes, the Taleban official said: "They are attacking our people. They are the original terrorists. This is clear. They are striking the Muslims. This is a Crusade. This is very clear."

Egypt

The Egyptian broadcast media interrupted regular programmes on the evening of 7 October to broadcast factual reports about the start of the US-led military campaign against Afghanistan's Taleban rulers and Usamah Bin-Ladin's Al-Qa'idah organization.

The Egyptian Satellite Channel, ESC, and the two main Egyptian radio channels, Cairo Radio General Service and the Voice of the Arabs, all carried live interviews with a number of local military and political analysts, Pakistani journalists and key Arab American figures to shed light on the timing, objectives and possible repercussions of the military campaign against the Taleban and Usamah Bin-Ladin.

All the evening news programmes on Egyptian radio and television channels consisted mainly of factual reports about the start of the US-led military campaign against the Taleban, President Bush's address to the American people in which he announced the start of the strike against the Taleban and the overwhelming European support for this war on terrorism and solidarity with the United States.

As of 2130 gmt, there were no radio or television reports on Egypt's official or public reaction to the start of the US-led strikes against the Taleban and Usamah Bin Ladin.

North Africa

Algeria: Algerian radio

1700 gmt: The radio in Arabic broadcast factual reports: Explosions in Kabul; power cut; Taleban forces in Kabul fire anti-aircraft missiles; Pentagon confirms explosions in Kabul; USA had earlier identified eight targets to be hit in Afghanistan - including Kandahar which serves as refuge to Usamah Bin-Ladin and the Taleban's spiritual leader; US president addresses nation; Taleban forces deployed on borders with Uzbekistan and reinforces its defence around Kabul; Northern Coalition calls on inhabitants of Kabul to stay away from military bases; Uzbekistan confirms arrival of US forces at one of its bases in the south of the country. (Duration: 2' 35")

1800 gmt: After threats, USA attacks Afghanistan with the participation of British forces; Bush says attacks target terrorist bases, including the Al-Qa'idah organization and Taleban's military bases. The Taleban movement confirms US air attacks, which it describes as a terrorist act; CNN reports that US attack led to destruction of a Taleban surveillance headquarters centre in Kandahar. (Duration: 9' 30").

Algerian TV broadcast a special news bulletin at 1730 gmt, in Arabic,

on the US-British attack on Afghanistan showing pictures from the Qatari satellite TV channel Al-Jazeera.

Algerian TV presented a factual report on the US-British strikes on Kabul, Jalalabad and Kandahar. At first the TV quoted Bush's statements today on the US strikes. Later it relayed Bush's whole speech. The station then broadcast a historical outline of the Taleban and their coming to power. An Algerian political analyst talked about the strikes on Afghanistan and possible consequences.

Then the station presented an overview on the geography and other characteristics of Afghanistan. It also carried Tony Blair's statement on the strikes. An analyst talked about the strikes and the oil resources in the region and the strategic importance of Afghanistan. The TV also broadcast a report on the anti-terrorist alliance quoting the UN secretary-general.

The Algerian TV bulletin at 1800 gmt in French lasted nearly an hour and focused mainly on the day's developments in Afghanistan and the US-British strikes. The TV carried a factual report, showing pictures from and quoting mainly Al-Jazeera and CNN. The TV also broadcast a number of reactions from Afghan leaders and the French president.

The Algerian TV bulletin at 1900 gmt relayed also factual reports on the US-British strikes on Afghanistan.

Speeches by Bush and Blair on the strikes were quoted. Bin-Ladin's statement which was relayed by Al-Jazeera was also quoted. This was followed by factual reports on the strikes, quoting various sources and quoting a number of reactions from Afghan, French and German officials. A correspondent, a political analyst, from Islamabad reported on the attack on Afghanistan quoting Bush's statements and said that he expected many casualties among Afghan civilians. He talked also about the weapons in the possession of the Taleban and said that their military force could not be compared with that of the USA. He said that this was a one-sided war.

Then a political analyst from Turkey talked live about the attack on Afghanistan and the aircraft which took off from Turkish bases. He said that other attacks were forthcoming and talked about US technology and the use of Afghan opposition forces on the ground.

The TV relayed also the speech delivered by President Bush on the strikes on Afghanistan.

An Algerian political analyst then spoke about the strikes on Afghanistan and the US diplomatic preparations for the strike. The TV relayed a factual report talking about the atmosphere in Afghanistan



earlier that day, the clashes between the Afghan factions and the US strike. The political analyst then talked about the conflict between the various Afghan factions.

Both the 1800 gmt and the 1900 gmt TV bulletins led with the strikes on Afghanistan.

Tunisia:

1700 gmt: Tunisian radio in Arabic: Kabul is target of missile attacks; White House announces beginning of new phase in war against terrorism; Bush to address nation; four explosions in Kabul (quoting Reuters); foreign minister of Northern Alliance warns inhabitants of Kabul against going near military bases; evacuation of thousands of Afghan refugees near a US military base in Pakistan. (Duration: 1' 40").

Mauritania:

1800 gmt: Mauritanian radio bulletin in French: No mention of US attacks on Afghanistan.

Source: BBC Monitoring research 7 Oct 01 (via DXLD)

The RN Internet team has been at work since shortly after the start of air raids on Afghanistan was announced. You'll find an archive of all the related stories we have published since 11 September at <http://www.rnw.nl/hotspots/html/afghanistanen.html>

I've just updated the Afghanistan Media spotlight, and that will be online shortly at <http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/features/html/afghanistan010917.html>

Our online news at <http://www.rnw.nl> will be updated every 15 minutes throughout the night. Also check our regular English broadcasts for updates.

BTW, CNN now has an exclusive deal with Al Jazeera TV, the Oman [sic]-based station that has close links with the Taliban. They're carrying pictures and coverage not available on other western networks.

(Andy Sennitt, Radio Netherlands, 1922 UT Oct 7, swprograms via DXLD)

A full report on the first air attacks of Operation Enduring Freedom is now online at <http://www.rnw.nl/hotspots/html/afghanistan011007.html>

(Andy Sennitt, Radio Netherlands 2033 UT, ibid.)

Dan Rather's coverage that no one can see due to NFL coverage is now a streaming webcast. A little hard to find and very low resolution. Go to <http://www.cbs.com> and look for LIVE WEBCAST on the left. It's very slow to load (Tom Roche, GA, 1938 UT Oct 7, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I also looked for such an icon at <http://www.cbsnews.com> but found none once it had loaded. Keep this in mind for the next untimely stupid ballgame (gh)

\*\* AUSTRALIA. Tasmania has started DST (UT plus 11) as of October 7. The other states observing DST --ñ SA, Vic and NSW --ñ do not start until October 28 (Chris Hambly, Vic, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* BELARUS [non]. Hi Glenn, Radio Racyja (from transmitter in Koszecin in Poland) is closing down at 2100 UTC and NOT 2200 UTC as stated in DXLD 125 & 131 by Petraitis. Heard last night signing off at 2100 UTC - 2300 local time. Gave website address: <http://www.racyja.pl> Best 73s (Ydun M. Ritz, Denmark, Oct 7, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* CANADA. The following Flash headline now appears on the RCI Action Committee website at <http://www.geocities.com/rciaction/>

RCI Weekend Newscasts to Return, Integration into the Domestic Service Continues

Weekend newscasts will be returned, plus services in Russian and Arabic will be increased.

Is the return of weekend newscasts the result of pressure from listeners? That certainly isn't clear at this point. Integration plans continue. Read all the details in the Flash announcement at:

<http://www.geocities.com/rciaction/RCIAnnouncement011005.html>

(Sheldon Harvey, Owner-Radio H.F. <http://www.total.net/~radiohf> swprograms Oct 6 via DXLD)

[in red] RCI Weekend Newscasts to Return,  
Integration into the Domestic Service Continues

On Friday afternoon, October 5, employees at Radio Canada International were called to a meeting with RCI director Denis Doucet, and CBC/Radio-Canada Vice President Sylvain Lafrance. (Our domestic radio and television service, CBC/Radio-Canada is responsible for administering RCI.)

Lafrance said that CBC and RCI administrators have decided to bring back newscasts on the weekend. (All RCI newscasts in seven languages were eliminated at the beginning of June.) Details on how this would be achieved were not given.

According to Lafrance, before bringing back the newscasts, the administrators wanted to be sure there was financing. Now that is assured, the newscasts will return as soon as the end of October.

Programming in Arabic and Russian will be increased because of the events of September 11th.

Lafrance also announced that the CBC/Radio-Canada Board of Directors re-confirmed that RCI is part of the domestic service's mandate: that, it is part of the public broadcaster's mandate to have an international radio service. (Canada's Broadcasting Act of 1991 obliges CBC to maintain an international service as part of its licence requirements.)

Lafrance said that the idea of an international radio service is ``even more modern`` than it ever was. ``It is a beautiful idea.``

Lafrance went on to say that the Board of Directors had accepted the idea of RCI's integration into the domestic service.

He also reiterated the four principles he had already outlined when he spoke to employees in June, 2001:

- > Optimal integration of RCI into CBC/Radio-Canada.

- > Putting RCI at the centre of the international strategy of the domestic service.

- > RCI ``branding`` should clearly be identified. (It is unclear whether this meant an RCI identity, or with the identity of the domestic service.)

- > RCI will have to look at the different ways (shortwave, internet etc) that the programs are ``distributed``.

As far as integrating RCI into the domestic service, Lafrance said all support services that are not directly part of putting programs together would be integrated into the domestic service as of December. Whether and how this will affect our technicians, and our master control which coordinates all of our broadcasts was not clear.

In fact many questions remain unanswered.

How will the newscasts be brought back? How many of our freelancers and temporary staff in all language services will be re-hired? How and if, the integration of English, French and other services will be done is not clear either.

What remains unchanged, is the cancellation of English and French morning shows to Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and the elimination of the evening broadcast to India. The drop in weekday newscasts in English and French from about eight a day in October of last year, to two a day as of this month will remain.

The Ukrainian program will still only broadcast half an hour, as opposed to the one hour program before the June 2001 cuts.

It's still too early to make any conclusions.

Total integration may have been avoided, but the status quo will not remain, and RCI will not restore the programming cut in June.

Here is the internal memo released on Friday, on CBC stationary: [end red]

#### NEW AND ENHANCED PROGRAMMING AT RADIO CANADA INTERNATIONAL (RCI)

I am pleased to announce some important programming decisions concerning the CBC international radio service.

First, we are increasing the number of weekly hours dedicated to programs broadcast in Arabic and Russian to ensure better coverage of the current international crisis. We feel that there is a need to temporarily increase our services, especially to the Middle East and neighboring areas, given the likelihood that major events will be taking place in this part of the world, at least in the short term.

We have also decided to resume production and broadcast of original newscasts on weekends, which had been stopped last summer because of budget constraints. In this respect, the reorganization currently going on will free up sufficient resources to allow us to successfully put these activities back into operation without jeopardizing other RCI activities.

All this is part of the new RCI fall program schedule which will go on air in stages starting October 13, with the broadcast of theme programs now in preparation. Broadcast of additional Arabic and Russian programs will start October 20, while original weekend newscasts will resume by the end of the month.

These decisions illustrate the importance of RCI in CBC operations. We firmly believe in the future of our international radio service, and we are determined to continue strengthening its program content because RCI is an integral part of the CBC's public service mandate.

In accordance with the Corporation's determination to better integrate all of its components, we announce that RCI support and distribution services will henceforth be part of CBC's existing services. We expect this integration to be completed by December 2001; RCI will thus be relieved of responsibilities that were in fact duplication of functions which can be carried out by other components.

Sylvain Lafrance, Vice-President, French Radio, Responsible for RCI

If you have any comments you'd like to share with us at the RCI Action Committee, please write us at: [rciaction@yahoo.ca](mailto:rciaction@yahoo.ca)

\*\* CUBA [and non]. NUMBERS STATION IN THE NEWS: Extracted from 22 Sept 2001 issue of the Washington Post, page A1:

The Defense Intelligence Agency's senior analyst for matters involving Cuba was arrested at her office yesterday and accused of providing classified information about military exercises and other sensitive operations to the Cuban government. Federal prosecutors said Ana Belen Montes, 44, of Northwest Washington, was working for the Cuban intelligence service while on the U.S. government payroll. The FBI, which had been tailing Montes for months, surprised her at work yesterday morning at Bolling Air Force Base and charged her with conspiracy to deliver U.S. national defense information to Cuba, a capital offense. Authorities declined to say what led them to focus on Montes or how they believed she became associated with the Cuban government. They said she communicated with her Cuban handlers via shortwave radio, computer diskettes and pagers, methods employed by a Cuban spy ring based in Florida -- known as the Wasp Network -- that attempted to infiltrate Cuban exile organizations and U.S. military installations. According to the FBI's affidavit, the Cuban intelligence service often communicates with overseas agents by broadcasting encrypted messages at high frequencies via shortwave radio. The messages typically are conveyed in a series of numbers and transcribed into Spanish text by a computer program.

This information was from a recent posting on the MUN List Server and from follow up postings: It was reported that the woman's computer hard disc had a transcription of a message originally transmitted on 7887 kHz from a station known in monitoring circles as 'The Atencion Station' and the FBI has matched this message with one they recorded on February 6, 1999.

The text begins ``30107 24624`` and continues until 150 such groups are listed spoken by a woman in Spanish who introduced the broadcast with the words ``Atenci n Atenci n`` (Oct ADXN Utility DX edited by Allen Fountain, via DXLD)

\*\* DENMARK. Hi Glenn, Wolfgang Bueschel asked Erik Koie about the Danish Radio item and here is his reply. (Mike Barraclough)

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Regarding our LW/MW, I may have missed something (read: didn't see the item), BUT we are on the air as follows:

LW 243 kHz (300 kW): 05.35-0.05 (or rather 0.29) DANISH TIME

MW 1062 kHz (250 kW): 04.50-0.05 (or rather 0.29) DANISH TIME

5 minutes of ENGLISH is Mon-Fri on 1062 kHz at 08.40 (also on 243 kHz), 09.10, 17.10 and 22.00 DANISH TIME (MEZ).

I have a historical review of the Kalundborg station with photos - but in Danish only - at:

<http://www1.dr.dk/pubs/nyheder/html/programmer/kortboelge/Kalund.jhtml>

73, (Erik K ie, DR, Oct 7 via Mike Barraclough, DXLD)

\*\* ECUADOR. Among HCJB's programming changes upcoming with B-01: less but better programming. Several programs will be shorter, but tighter, including DXPL, from 50 to 30 minutes. Due to staffing limitations, there will be no more news on weekends. [Must have taken a cue from RCI   but q.v.! Note to terrorists: please be kind enough not to strike on a weekend -gh]. Some program titles have been changed. Saludos Amigos almost went away a year ago, on the idea that HCJB does not need two different mailbag programs. But SA has been changed a little, and response has been phenomenal, and would be crazy to do away with that program now, nor DXPL (Jeff Ingram and Allen Graham on DX Partyline Oct 6, notes by gh for DXLD)

\*\* INTERNATIONAL VACUUM. Just as E! was reporting on the cancellation of the Emmy Awards, the satellite feed faded into noise around 2045 UT Oct 7 as Solar Transit Outage took place, with no backup or apology from the network or local Cox Cable here in Enid   despite the fact that this phenomenon is entirely predictable. We quickly scanned the other channels and found these were also out: CSPAN(1), TWC, TLC, HIS, COM, and COURT was black rather than noise. Probably some networks using satellites further east had outages earlier in the day. This typically continues for a few days at the same time, twice a year. Things were back to normal by 2054 (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* NEW ZEALAND. RNZI, 15175nf; At 1105 UT Oct 7, close to local

sunrise in NJ, Radio New Zealand International's new frequency was mostly a cloud of noise and a weak barely readable background audio signal. By 1120 UT the cloud had dissipated enough and the audio signal improved to a decent almost comfortable level. The content at that time was New Zealand's National Radio program, "Media Watch". Interesting to hear the September 11th terrorist attacks refereed to as the events of September 12th. Which is true in their frame of reference, but probably requiring constant history book adjustments for countries on that side of the date line (Pete Costello, NJ, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* PERU. 3172.7, R Municipal, Pano, 1025 Oct 7, Fair reception. ID in passing by male announcer at 1032. Very nice traditional folk music (David Hodgson, TN, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* U S A. X-URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/10/06/opinion/06UNGA.html?pagewanted=print>

October 6, 2001 New York Times Saturday  
Afghanistan's Fans of American Radio  
Op-Ed page By SANFORD J. UNGAR

BALTIMORE --- When I arrived at the Voice of America in 1999 as its director, its top five countries, in numbers of listeners, were China, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Afghanistan. That's right, Afghanistan.

And Afghans are still listening to the V.O.A. Research last year estimated that 80 percent of the men in Afghanistan listened to V.O.A. news at least once a week in Pashto or Dari, the country's two principal languages; 67 percent listened every day. (The Taliban would not permit a survey of women.) Even some of the Taliban themselves have admitted to visiting American journalists that the V.O.A. is their main news source. They know that their own radio is pure propaganda.

....

Late last month, the State Department, in a bizarre episode of bad editorial judgment and patriotic censorship, pressured the V.O.A. not to air excerpts from an exclusive interview with Mullah Muhammad Omar, the leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and a defender of Osama bin Laden. It was inappropriate, officials said, to spend taxpayers' money to broadcast his voice.

.....

Credibility takes a long time to build, but it can be quickly lost. We need only remember how the reputation of the British Broadcasting Corporation, another publicly funded news service, suffered when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government would not permit it to air the voice of Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein. The BBC did

not recover its well-deserved stature for years.

Now more than ever, the Voice of America has important work to do. It must be able to interview anyone anywhere at any time, without fear of rebuke or reprisal, in order to provide honest and full coverage of momentous events. The State Department should keep its hands and editing pencils off the news.

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Sanford J. Ungar, president of Goucher College, was director of the Voice of America from 1999 to 2001 (via Daniel Say, swprograms via DXLD)

\*\* U S A. Oct. 7, 2001, 12:10AM

Broadcasting truth needed in time of war, by KIM ANDREW ELLIOTT  
When the Voice of America, the U.S. government international radio station, first broadcast on Feb. 24, 1942, the announcer said, "Daily at this time, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good or bad. We shall tell you the truth."

Over the years, the Voice of America has built its good reputation and 91 million listeners because of its news service. In the new war against terrorism, some government officials and commentators have been trying to define a new mission for VOA, consisting of one-sided news and propaganda.

On Sept. 21, the State Department compelled VOA management not to broadcast a report including an exclusive interview with the leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar. Bolstered by support from VOA journalists who did not want VOA's independence to be compromised, that report was broadcast on Sept. 25, with some updated information.

On Sept. 20, New York Times columnist William Safire chided VOA for broadcasting a report containing an interview with Yasir al Serri, a leader of Egypt's Islamic group Gama'a Islamiyya. Safire wrote, "Even in peacetime, news credibility does not flow from splitting a moral difference between good and evil. In the climate of today's undeclared war, private media in democracies are free to take either or neither side, but U.S. taxpayer-supported broadcasting is supposed to be on our side."

On Oct. 1, a New York Post editorial had this message for VOA:  
"Hello? Voice of America? Didn't anyone tell you? There's a war on. You're supposed to be delivering propaganda!"

Safire and The New York Post seem to think that VOA's output should be crafted from some central bureaucratic plan. But over the years, we have learned that, especially in the media business, market-based decision-making leads to success. The market for VOA is people who



live in countries where news from state-controlled domestic media is one sided and propagandistic. These listeners seek the objective, comprehensive and timely news that provides the antidote to what they receive domestically. Credibility is therefore the be-all and end-all of successful international broadcasting.

People in these media-controlled countries are selective about what foreign stations they listen to. From the 1950s through the 1980s, Radio Moscow was the granddaddy of international broadcasters, transmitting more hours per week, in more languages, through more transmitters, with more kilowatts, than any other station. But its audience never amounted to more than 10 percent of that attracted by the British Broadcasting Corp. or our VOA. Beijing's China Radio International has grown to be one the formidable voices of this decade, but its audience numbers are as dismal as Radio Moscow's.

Since World War II, the BBC has been the most successful international broadcaster because it is perceived as the most independent and objective source of news. VOA occupies a respectable second place, because over the years it has adhered more to the news model than to the propaganda model.

The VOA Charter, a U.S. law signed by President Ford in 1976, says in part: "The long-range interests of the United States are served by communicating directly with the peoples of the world by radio. ... VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive."

The wording "long range" is significant. VOA's content may include details and viewpoints at odds with U.S. policies. But by broadcasting such a balanced and complete news service, VOA in the long term builds credibility and wins an audience. And if U.S. policies are wise and virtuous, we can safely bet that this accumulated audience will in the long term tend to see things the way the United States sees things. This is the communication process of effective international broadcasting.

Should VOA broadcast only the U.S. government's side of the news because it is U.S. government funded? Actually, VOA is government funded because there is no commercial potential for international broadcasting in languages such as Dari and Pashto. People in Afghanistan want to be informed, and it is in the interest of the United States that they be very well informed about their own country, about U.S. policies and about events in the rest of the world. It would also be effective to provide them with the music and friendly announcers forbidden on their domestic media.

VOA is under the supervision of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, a nine-member, bipartisan body of prominent citizens, nominated by

the president and approved by the Senate. The board is supposed to provide a "firewall" between the U.S. government and VOA. Somehow, that firewall did not work on Sept. 21. The board must ensure that VOA's ability to report the news is protected in the future.

A VOA with one-sided news and a greater emphasis on propaganda would not be an authentic voice of America. A VOA that is a product of press freedom and sound principles of journalism is a truer voice of America. And such a VOA will continue to attract an audience and have an impact in the world.

Elliott produces a weekly Voice of America program about media and was VOA's audience research officer from 1985 to 1995. (Houston Chronicle Op-Ed Oct 7 via DXLD)

\*\* U S A. KIM: Welcome to Communications World for the weekend of October 6th, 2001.

Earlier this week, the White House announced that President Bush will appoint Robert Reilly as the new director of the Voice of America. Mr. Reilly is not a stranger to VOA. For the past 11 years he has worked in the VOA building for the Office of Policy of the International Broadcasting Bureau, VOA's parent agency. Mr. Reilly is host of the ``On the Line`` program produced by the Office of Policy, and he has been the announcer who reads most of the editorials on VOA that reflect the views of the U.S. government.

Many VOA employees have misgivings about a new VOA director whose background is policy advocacy rather than news. On Thursday, Mr. Reilly spoke to VOA newsroom and English programs staff. He said he would uphold the VOA Charter requirement that its news be ``accurate. Objective, and comprehensive`` and he said that ``propaganda is bad news.``

Mr. Reilly becomes director at a time of vigorous public debate about the role of the Voice of America, especially during the emerging war on terrorism. That debate was spurred when, on September 21st, the U.S. State Department pressured VOA officials not to broadcast a report including part of an interview with the Afghanistan Taleban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar. VOA broadcast an updated version of that report on September 25th, over the objections of the State Department.

On Wednesday, the Wall Street Journal wrote that VOA has been, quote, ``(r)udderless except for a gaggle of bureaucrats`` in the absence, during the past few months, of a director appointed by President Bush. The Journal criticized VOA's decision to carry the report including the interview with Mullah Omar, calling it a ``confused

mixed message.'' The editorial blamed the administration of President Bill Clinton of dismantling VOA's, quote, ''capacity to sustain in-depth programming about American institutions.''

Last Sunday, the New York Post, a large circulation tabloid in New York City, was even more pointed in its criticism of VOA :

TALENT: Hello? Voice of America? Didn't anyone tell you? There's a war on. You're supposed to be delivering propaganda!''

KIM: But other sources support VOA's decision to carry the report with the Mullah Omar interview. On September 28th, Jules Witcover of the Baltimore Sun wrote, ''...the responsibility of any credible news organization is to gather information wherever it can be found and report it rather than propagandize on behalf of 'our side.'''

And last Sunday, Bill Newbold, in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, wrote:

TALENT: Almost 30 years ago, when America faced a different but just as dangerous time, some of the individuals who are now trying to silence the Voice of America were trying to mute its voice then. The crisis then became known as Watergate. Critics in the White House leaned heavily on the Voice's editors to soften their coverage of Richard Nixon. Let us hope that President Bush does not accept their counsel.

KIM: Organizations that advocate press freedom have also defended VOA. On September 28th, Ann Cooper, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists , wrote in a letter to the New York Times:

TALENT: The criticism by the State Department ... of the Voice of America ... exhibits an almost reflexive reaction among governments: in times of conflict, keep the words of opponents off the air and out of print. ... This 'patriotic time' is also a time to remember that tolerance of a free press keeps our democracy intact.''

KIM: And in a letter to VOA news director Andre Denesnera, Johann Fritz, director of the International Press Institute in Vienna, expressed, quote, ''strong support for the courageous stand taken by the staff of the VOA.''. He also wrote that the State Department criticism of VOA, quote, ''...may provide active encouragement for governments in other countries to apply pressure on their own public service broadcasters ... . The United States is viewed as an open and democratic country, but IPI fears that this case may set a precedent for behavior in other countries.''

VOA was also subject to criticism this past week from the Taleban government, but given the source, that might be a considered a compliment to VOA. Taliban Information Minister Qatradullah Jamal accused VOA and BBC of waging a propaganda war against the Afghan leadership. AUDIO

On Tuesday, Ed Royce, a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California, and eight other House members introduced legislation to create a Radio Free Afghanistan. This station would be a revival of the Radio Free Afghanistan that was operated by U.S. funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty from 1985 to 1992. The legislation would authorize eight million dollars in fiscal year 2002 and six million in 2003 for six hours per day each in Dari and Pashto. Mr. Royce said, ``Radio Free Afghanistan is urgently needed to inform Afghans about what their ruling Taleban government was doing, and to tell the truth about world events.'' The congressman's news release did not mention VOA's own Dari and Pashto services, which have been broadcasting news about Afghanistan, the United States, and the rest of the world since 1980 and 1982, respectively. [See Rep. Royce's news release.]

On Wednesday, an editorial in the Dallas Morning News called not only for the revival of Radio Free Afghanistan, but the expansion of RFE/RL's Arabic language Radio Free Iraq to include similar services for Libya, Yemen, and even Saudi Arabia, and, in the Urdu language, for Pakistan.

Another good friend of VOA is Payam Jackson in Iran. He is the host of a Web site dedicated to ``Border Crossings,`` the VOA music request show, heard on shortwave. Payam wants me to let Communications World and all VOA listeners know that his Web site has a new URL. It is <http://voabc.cjb.net>

Here is what I believe is the first reception report I've received from Algeria. Hisham Lahlali in Algiers heard Communications World on September 15th at 0935 UT on 15205, SINPO 43344. I wasn't aware of that frequency in the increasingly complicated VOA English schedule. It's via Kavala, Greece. By the way, Hisham uses the free e-mail service provided by Italy's public broadcaster, RAI.

Other new frequencies for Communications World at 0933 are 15355 and 17685. And a reminder that additional new frequencies for CW are, as follows: at 133 UTC on 7285, 9665, 9750, and 12030. At 1333 on 15265, 15355, 15515, and 17685. And 2133 on 5935, 7195, and 9585. Lester Beracraft tells me that some of these new frequencies work well for him in the U.K. (Kim Elliott, VOA Communications World Oct 6 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

\*\* U S A / IRELAND / U K. [BDXC-UK] Radio Free Eireann - Freedom of speech, if you say the right things

DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK). From FT.com:

Weekend (Radio Review) - Irish Times; Oct 6, 2001 BY HARRY BROWNE

You know the great old quote from Pastor Niemoller about 1930s Germany, 'first they came for the communists' etc. It sprang to my mind for some reason when The Last Word (Today FM, Monday to Friday) spent a couple of minutes telling us about the US Office of Homeland Security (ay carumba!) and its apparent threat to Radio Free Eireann.

Devoted memorisers of this column may recall occasional notes from 1990s New York when we got a sneer out of Radio Free Eireann, with its rebel songs in one speaker and crackling armalite in the other. Broadcast on public, listener-supported WBAI, the programme was largely an expression of the sort of fundamentalist Irish-American politics loved by New York cops and firefighters, ever-ready to highlight 'sell-outs' in the ranks of Fianna Fail and, later, Sinn Fein. Its biases aside, however, it went in for plenty of hard, detailed information and expertise from this side of the water, and there are a fair few respected Irish politicians and journalists who have been interviewed on it. (Not me, nope.) And leaving aside the question of terrorism, it certainly helped raise a lot of money during 'support drives' for what was one of the world's great radio stations, WBAI.

Listeners to The Last Word won't have learned any of that. From Eamon Dunphy's vague interview with Niall O'Dowd of the Irish Voice, we might have gathered from the programme that Radio Free Eireann is an actual station rather than a show; and that since it appears to support the Real IRA and habitually slags off Niall O'Dowd, it more or less deserves whatever it gets. What it's getting, apparently, is enemy status in the war on terrorism, with the withdrawal under pressure of the web server which keeps its archives (IRAradio.com, would you believe) - and, according to O'Dowd, further measures are likely. He muttered something about the First Amendment (the US constitutional promise, oft-broken, of free speech and free press) but it didn't sound like he was getting exercised about this seeming censorship.

Make no mistake: like or loathe Radio Free Eireann, its suppression is based on a standard that would have seen anti-apartheid and Central America campaigners in the 1980s branded as terrorists for supporting the ANC or FMLN. As the conversation moved on, O'Dowd trotted out the well-tried line that America can have no grey areas about 'terrorism', no distinctions about 'freedom fighters'. Anyone

using violence to achieve political aims, he said, is now right out of bounds.

What utter nonsense, Eamon Dunphy should have said, but didn't. Leaving aside, for the moment, the US's own high-megaton preparations, there's the small matter of the Afghan Northern Alliance, darlings of Western media and governments during the last fortnight. It's a group for whom, in reality, the words 'drug-dealing terrorists' might have been coined; any objective journalist should have copied-and-pasted the DDT phrase from articles about Colombia straight into those about Afghanistan.

However, it doesn't serve the interests of power to use these words, so the Northern Alliance can go on being 'guerrillas', or even graduate to become 'freedom fighters', once the US starts using them as cannon fodder.

Either we believe in free speech or we don't. I am entitled to think Brian 'Clow-en' Cowen is a dangerous ninny when he goes to the UN and comes on Five Seven Live (RTE Radio 1, Monday to Friday) to commend George Bush's 'restraint' - a funny word for the deliberate, cold-blooded execution of a plan that promises international war of many years' duration, a plan likely to kill Afghans by the thousand before a missile has landed.

Similarly, I wish George Dempsey were a figment of my imagination (as he seems to believe the Vietnam War is a figment of my imagination) instead of a mainstay of Irish broadcasting and press alike. I wish Jack Straw on Today (BBC Radio 4, Monday to Friday) would stop saying 'international law' as if the mere repetition of the words could make them mean the opposite of what international law actually states about the use and threat of violence. But, silly me, I would defend to the death - okay, to the discomfort - the right of Cowen and Dempsey and Straw and Radio Free Eireann to hold and to express publicly their bloodcurdling views. An entirely more benign set of Irish emigrant voices was featured on McAlpine's Fusiliers (BBC Radio 4, Monday to Friday). This series of 15-minute programmes on the 1950s generation of Ireland's economic refugees was hosted, strangely, by Ardal O'Hanlon, but it wasn't played for laughs. O'Hanlon, a nice Monaghan boy from a good Fianna Fail family, let it be recalled, is seemingly patron of a London-based charity that looks after some of these now-elderly navvies. 'I'll tell ya, like, in my 20s I often laid 90-ton of asphalt, hand-laid 90-ton of asphalt, on a Saturday mornin' before one o'clock, with a vile hangover . . . ' Yep, men were men and Camden Town was full of them, queuing for work in the morning, drinking in the pubs in the evening and the clubs all night long. If the yarns sound familiar, you'd want to have heard O'Hanlon's pop-sociology: 'These men had little choice in the type of

work available to them, unlike today's generation of Irish emigrants, who are confident and educated and active in every walk of British life.'

Okay, perhaps Radio 4 listeners need to hear such generalised guff from Ardal, partly to counter the effect of old Joe McGarry, who measured his 1960s wages in units of alcohol: a day's work was worth 64 pints, which certainly beats a hack's shift in The Irish Times circa 2001. Mind you, the buildings were no match for the tunnels, where in the 1960s workmen could earn up to a staggering (pounds) 500 a week, but 'safety didn't exist, and if you raised an issue of safety, you were sacked'.

One might have hoped for a happier bit of history from You and the Night and the Wireless (RTE Radio 1, Tuesday), a new radio play from Hugh Leonard. The playwright's contribution to RTE's 75th birthday celebrations, this comic drama presents us with a provincial theatre company, 1925, threatened by the popularity of cinema, haunted by the possibilities of radio, censored by the pontification of the parish priest.

I say 'comic drama', but in common with Leonard's other work, the comedy here ran aground on some strange and specific neurological obstacle that's apparently unique to my brain; I never so much as cracked a smile. However, there were elements of You and the Night and the Wireless that did reach other cerebral spots - in its easy-going way, this was an enlightening and occasionally touching picture of a unique moment in the history of culture and the State, as enacted in the politicking and commerce of one small town.

The historical clash of media and messages sometimes sounded overplayed; the foreshadowing about the soon-to-be-launched Radio (Unfree?) Eireann was a bit har-de-har-har; but if we can't trust Hugh Leonard with such material, who can we trust? His actor-hero's pompous but passionate desire for self-expression ran up against technology, market forces and the young State's war against foreign influence and sexual honesty. It was, I'd venture to suggest, a timely meditation on the limits of freedom.

All Material Subject to Copyright (via Mike Terry, BDXC-UK via DXLD)

\*\* URUGUAY [and non} Hola, Antes que nada me disculpo por ingresar en su "mailbox" sin acuerdo previo. El motivo es para presentarle mi sitio web relacionado con la afición de la radioescucha, si bien está orientado hacia la escucha de estaciones amateurs que operan en las bandas de onda corta, tiene mucha información de interés para el Dxista en general.

Algunas de sus secciones son: Beacons, Concursos, Galería Qsl, Principiantes, Anécdotas, Propagación.

Mucho me complacería que la visitaras y me reportaras tu opinión.  
73 y buena escucha

(Alfredo <http://www.qsl.net/cx3no/> Oct 7, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* VIETNAM [non]. DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK).  
Tune-in to station in Vietnamese at 1340 on 15750 kHz on Sunday 7th  
October. Various presenters in Vietnamese with reports and lots of  
mentions of "Vietnam". One report made mention of "Financial Times".  
English announcement at 1420 as "Vietnamese broadcast of New Horizons  
signing-off". Songs and further talks in Vietnamese, eventually  
signing-off at 1430. Fair signal but co-channel utility QRM.  
Location? (Tony Rogers Birmingham - UK AOR7030+/LW BDXC-UK Oct 7 via  
DXLD) #####